

account of the legitimate aspirations of an oppressed people, groaning under the burden of convention and oppressive privilege, for a prompt remedy. Bodin has, indeed, like Burke after him, a nervous dread of innovation, and, while he admits it in regard to the laws, he only admits it in extreme cases in regard to political institutions. He is extremely cautious, while admitting the fact of progress by reform, and would now be regarded as an ultra-conservative. Among the reforms which he advises are the abolition of the venality of political and magisterial offices, the modification of the right of primogeniture, the diminution of the inequality in State and society. He demands an adequate system of public instruction, equality of taxation, protection, in the form of the augmentation of export dues on provisions, in order to increase the revenue and cheapen food, the increase of import duties in order to encourage manufactures, the reduction as far as possible of direct taxation, and the abolition of slavery. Reform to be salutary should learn from experience, and should take account of the differences of the constitution and national conditions of the various nations.

To conclude, Bodin is in theory an advocate of absolute monarchy; in practice he prefers a limited monarchy. Religious toleration, combined with political order, monarchic supremacy tempered by the States-General, are his solutions of the political problems of the age. He lived long enough to witness the triumph of monarchy in the victories of Henry IV. He was not spared to welcome the Edict of Nantes. Unfortunately for France, the triumph of the monarchy was not tempered by the limitations which he deemed indispensable to the well-being of the State—the exercise of a certain measure of popular control over the government. While the system vindicated by Henry IV. was to prove a boon in the hands of so enlightened a monarch, its development in those of his successors was to bring back the *regime* of oppression and intolerance, and thus pave the way for a future revolution, both necessary and violent

The gist of this chapter, with some omissions and additions, is also taken from my book on *The Growth and Decline of the French Monarchy* (1902), for which the following